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Editorial: Early voting a success

This election perfectly shows why early voting is not only popular, but necessary. Howard County has cottoned to the concept quite well.

Five days before the big day, a full third of all registered voters in the county had taken advantage of this opportunity.

There were signs this year was going to big, even last month. Early voting figures in Howard County through mid-October have nearly doubled totals from the same point in 2012, according to Tribune reporter George Myers. Through Oct. 20, the county had received 3,943 valid early voting ballots, compared to 2,039 on the same date in 2012 and 2,598 in 2008, according to Howard County Clerk Kim Wilson.

And it’s not just Howard County. Miami County Voter Registration Clerk Mary Kaye Jones said Oct. 27 that 3,280 people had shown up at the courthouse to cast their ballots since early voting opened on Oct. 12, Tribune reporter Carson Gerber learned. That’s 14 percent of the county’s eligible voters. On top of that, 551 absentee ballots have been mailed out.

This is the first year for satellite early voting in Howard County. And for the first time, county residents who didn’t qualify to vote absentee — you must

expect to be out of the county Nov. 8, are over 65 years of age or live with a disability to cast an absentee ballot — can now vote before Election Day.

It is far more convenient for voters, especially seniors. You're not going to be standing in a line, at least not as long as you might be on Election Day. For working people it's great because they don't have to carve out one specific time to make their voice heard.

Today is the last day for early voting in Howard County. Vote at one of these satellite vote centers between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. today or wait until Tuesday:

- Carver Community Center, 1030 N. Purdum St.
- Chapel Hill Church, 2600 W. Alto Road.
- Eastern Performing Arts Center, 421 S. Harrison St., Greentown.
- Indiana Wesleyan University, 1916 E. Markland Ave.
- UAW Local 685, 929 E. Hoffer St.
- Northwestern High School Fieldhouse lobby, 4223 W. 350 North.
- Russiaville Lions Club, 555 N. Liberty St., Russiaville.
- Titan Annex, 3794 E. 300 South.

It’s a good thing early voting came along when it did. When you have this many motivated, interested voters, the true worth of such an initiative shows its true value.